

World Vision

Today

Autumn 2000

1950 - 2000
Fifty **50** Years
Anniversaries

Clean Water

For a Thirsty World

page 12

**Women of Faith's
Thelma Wells in Ghana**

page 4

**How Your Church Can Get
Involved in World Missions**

page 7



Caring for Cambodia

I shared your article on child labor [Summer 2000] with my 5th grade class of 32 students. They were moved. We recently finished a Junior Achievement program teaching students how to start businesses. Students created their own businesses and sold their wares to other 5th graders. They made a profit of \$120 and voted to send \$50 to children in Cambodia. It is their wish that you use this donation to send children to school.

Linda McDonough, Bonita Springs, Fla.

I was greatly touched by your article and photos ["Child Labor Close-up: A Photographer's Journey," Summer 2000]. Would it be possible to designate a donation to the family who was featured?

Leona Lieberknecht, Belmond, Iowa

Photographer Jon Warren spent a month with the Phou family in Cambodia. To express his thanks when he left, he worked with World Vision Cambodia to provide the family with a set of pigs for long-term income and funds to help them improve their home. Other families in their community are still in need of such assistance. Donations to the child labor program in Cambodia will provide business loans for parents and vocational training for young people. World Vision centers provide havens where kids who work in the garbage dump can play, eat snacks, read books, receive tutoring, and hear the message of Christ. Donations for child laborers in Cambodia and in other countries can be designated to: Child Labor 8817.

A Child's Sacrifice

I want to share with you the efforts of a 7-year-old boy who took the challenge to reach out to this world. He raised \$25 in three weeks for the poor. He set up a "fair" in his room and charged his mom and dad admission to play the various games. It took him hours to draw and prepare each game. Without hesitation, he put \$5 of "tooth fairy money" into his "poor people's jar." Without his parents' knowledge, he saved the dollar he received for school snacks each day for his jar.

We can all learn from this 7-year-old's example of unselfish sacrifice. His name is Mason Andrew Daniel. He goes by the name of Mason, and I am the proud dad who can call him son.

Craig Daniel, Double Springs, Ala.

Editor's note: Several readers responded to a letter from Greg Weiss [Summer 2000] asking why evangelism wasn't listed as one of World Vision's "10 Urgent Issues For the Millennium." World Vision does not consider Christian witness a separate item—one among the other nine. It is core to *all* of the issues we listed.

World Vision is firmly committed to bringing the Good News of Christ to the world. It is the very reason we exist, and it influences all aspects of our work from the staff we hire to the programs we operate. Introducing children and families to Christ and helping to support their Christian walk is an integral part of *each* of the 10 issues. For example, sponsored children are often assisted with tuition and fees for Christian schools, or they are given opportunities to attend Christian camps. In countries where we are not allowed to preach the Gospel, our staff faithfully bear witness to Christ by their deeds and actions.

President **Richard Stearns**
Editor **Shelly Ngo**
Design **Journey Communications**
Senior Editors **Karen Homer**
Jane Sutton-Redner
Photo Editor **Jon Warren**
Production Manager **Kris Baldyga**

On the cover

World Vision engineer Abraham River supervises construction of a water system in Neyba, Dominican Republic. Photograph by Jon Warren

World Vision Today received the following awards from the Evangelical Press Association, which annually recognizes the best in Christian publishing:

First Place, Photo Feature: "Our Children: Prayers and Possibilities," by Jon Warren, Winter 1999.

First Place, Single Photo/Candid: "Boys Will Be Boys" by Jon Warren, Summer 1999.

Second Place, Editorial: "Mark McGwire's Baseball" by Richard Stearns, Summer 1999.

Fourth Place, Single Photo/Controlled Setting: "If I Had One Wish" by Jon Warren, Winter 1999.

The magazine also received an overall Award of Merit.

World Vision Today, a free quarterly publication, affirms people responding to God's call to care for the poor by providing information, inspiration, and opportunities for action, linking them with children and families in nearly 90 countries where World Vision ministers. In an effort to be careful stewards of our resources, this publication costs less than 30 cents a copy to print and mail.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, home address, and daytime telephone number, and should be sent to: The Editor, **World Vision Today**, P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, Washington 98063-9716, e-mailed to WVToday@worldvision.org or faxed to (253) 815-3445. Letters may be edited for space and clarity. Submitted photos will not be returned. Please send address changes at least 30 days before moving and enclose the address label clipped from a current copy or return envelope.

Charter Member
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

Member
Evangelical Press Association



Copyright © 2000 by World Vision Inc.
E-mail address: WVToday@worldvision.org
For employment opportunities at World Vision, visit our Web site at www.worldvision.org

Lessons From Lazarus

"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches." REVELATION 2:7 (NIV)

HERE WE ARE, 2,000 YEARS AFTER THE DEATH, resurrection, and ascension of Christ; 2,000 years after the giving of the Great Commission; 2,000 years into the age of the church. It's an appropriate time for some soul-searching. Exactly what does God expect of the church? What now would he have us do?

A parable in Luke provides a great metaphor for our times. "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table" (Luke 16:19-20). Both men worshipped the same God, but something was terribly wrong. The rich man died and went to hell, while Lazarus was spirited by angels to Abraham's side when he died.

Did you ever wonder just what was the rich man's sin that resulted in such severe punishment? We are not told that he ever abused Lazarus. Yet it was certain that he knew the beggar was there. The rich man must have walked by Lazarus each day as he came and went, without ever stopping to consider his needs. He was just too preoccupied with his life of prosperity.

The scripture says Lazarus was *laid* at the gate. It is almost as if God deliberately placed him there just to see what the rich man would do.

When we know what God wants us to do and we fail to act, we sin. We know about the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. We know what God commands of us in response to the poor and the helpless. But many churches and Christians in America have failed to respond. They use their wealth for good things—programs, music, and facilities—but they fail to invest in the things that reap eternal rewards. Is this how Christ would have us use the resources he has given us?

Remarkably, a full 15 percent of Jesus' recorded words dealt with possessions or money. That's more than he said on any other subject, including faith, prayer, and salvation. Jesus saw a strong connection between a person's true spiritual condition and his attitude and actions toward wealth. 1 John 3:17-18 says it well: "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

Every generation of believers has its blind spots. At the start of this new millennium, God has laid many beggars at our gate. Sadly, like the rich man, we often walk by without seeing them. A recent Barna Research survey indicated that less than 10 percent of even the best churches' budgets are spent specifically to assist the poor. Clearly we can and must do more.

Consider the example of Cho Dae Presbyterian Church in Paramus, N.J. In 1999, the Korean-American congregation gave \$20,000 they were planning to use for building expansion to World Vision for victims of North Korea's famine. Or read in this magazine about how God led Lake Grove Presbyterian in Lake Oswego, Ore.—a church once uninvolved in world missions—to grasp hands with Senegal's Wolof people in a friendship that has richly blessed both sides (see "Mission Possible," page 7).

What would God have us do in our churches? The same as he has asked for 2,000 years: "And if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday" (Isaiah 58:10).



Richard E. Stearns

Thelma Wells often speaks and writes passionately about God's grace. But a recent trip to visit a new World Vision/Women of Faith project in Ghana, West Africa, taught her new lessons in grace. Following are diary excerpts from her dramatic journey.

By Thelma Wells | Photographs by Karen Homer



Goals for Ghana: Women of Faith and World Vision are assisting 13 communities in Atebubu.

Day 1—Wednesday, Feb. 23

I TRAVELED TO GHANA WITH FELLOW WOMEN OF FAITH SPEAKER LUCI Swindoll, president Mary Graham, founder Stephen Arterburn, and my daughter, Vikki. From my home in Dallas, Texas, it took five days to reach Atebubu, 250 miles northwest of the capital, Accra. We traveled up-country in 4x4 vehicles over rugged roads, passing villages of thatched-roofed, mud-walled huts.

We were thankful for the bottled water we drank. Clean water is a luxury here. For generations, people have battled sickness caused by contaminated drinking water. World Vision has drilled 192 borehole wells, built sanitation facilities, and provided hygiene education in the Atebubu district, benefiting 100,000 people.

Day 2—Thursday, Feb. 24

THE BEST THING ABOUT GHANA IS THE POLITE, RESPECTFUL PEOPLE. TODAY WE ATTENDED A *DURBAR*, A celebration ceremony. Chiefs from six villages welcomed us and entertained us with drumming and dancing. They granted us permission to visit their villages. World Vision and the Women of Faith are assisting 13 communities in Atebubu, aiming to educate all children aged 5 to 13, increase food production, improve health and nutrition, train families to begin small, home-based businesses, and provide Christian discipleship to villagers.

Day 3—Friday, Feb. 25

IN THE VILLAGE OF DUABONE, I MET CHARLES AND ABENA ADDO AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN, GABRIEL, Kate, and Elizabeth—the family I am supporting through World Vision. Charles, 36, lost his sight to glaucoma in December 1999 and is unable to work on his yam farm. Abena now tends the fields with 18-month-old Elizabeth tied to her back. My heart went out to them. My great-grandfather, Daddy William Harrell, was blind. By supporting the Addo family, I can give back a part of what he gave to me—kindness, understanding, powerful prayers, and financial help. Abena and Charles talked about their great faith in God despite Charles' condition and their dire poverty. She said they know God has a plan for them. It is the grace of God abiding in them that stirs up such faith.

Charles' father is Duabone's fetish priest. Villagers bring him goats and chickens to sacrifice to appease their gods or to place a hex on someone. (Although an estimated 40 percent of Ghana's 18.8 million people are Christian, many in rural areas still practice animistic rites.) When I was introduced to Charles' father, I said, "I greet you in the name of Jehovah our Creator and Jesus our Savior." Without inhibitions, I told him that Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb who paid the price for us on Calvary so we would never again have to make animal sacrifices as in the Old Testament. "What do you want most in life?" I asked him through a translator.

"Peace," he replied. "I'm worried about my son who is blind."

"Peace can be yours because we have the Peacemaker with us. Will you accept Jesus, who promises peace?" He nodded, but didn't indicate acceptance. I challenged him, "If you don't accept this today, will you promise that when Charles regains his sight, this will be a sign that Jesus is real, and you will accept him then?" He made the sign of the cross on his chest.

I believe God will restore Charles' sight through either medical treatment or a miracle. I believe God is drawing Charles' father and everyone in Duabone to him.

Day 4—Saturday, Feb. 26

WE VISITED ST. GEORGE'S CASTLE IN ELMINA, A FISHING VILLAGE ON THE GULF OF GUINEA. BUILT IN 1482, this is one of more than 50 slave trade castles once operated by the Portuguese, Dutch, Danes, and

Warm welcome: Thelma's visit to Atebubu villages started with a celebration ceremony.

e x t r a v a g a n t g r a c e i n g h a n a



Faces of faith: Through World Vision, Thelma is supporting the Addo family, who possess abiding trust in God despite their poverty. From left: Gabriel; Thelma's daughter, Vikki; Abena, holding Kate; Charles; and Thelma, holding Elizabeth.

British. For 250 years, 10,000 slaves were annually shipped from these shores to the New World. Walking toward the castle, some boys greeted me, "Hello, mommy! Welcome home, mommy!" I thought, *I live in Dallas, Texas. I don't know what you're talking about.* I was in for an awakening.

I saw the cells into which the slaves were driven like cattle. Chained at the ankle, they were left there on the cold, jagged, brick floor. I lost it when I saw the women's holding cage. The "rebellious" or those who refused the officers' lustful demands were put in a 4-foot-square, roped-off pen in the hot sun until they either gave in or died.

I thought of my great-great grandmother, Mollie Daniels, born just two years after slavery ended in the United States. Her parents or grandparents possibly had been held here or in another castle. The knowledgeable tour guide told us that people from other continents had also been used as slaves, but they did not have the Africans' strength, stamina, tenacity, and faith. My ancestors made it. Praise God, they made it!

Walking out of the castle, we sang "Amazing Grace," which the British captain John Newton wrote after God changed his heart on a stormy sea in 1748, transforming him from slave trader to a slave saver. The hymn's words showered my soul and washed my anger away. Looking out toward the sandy coastline, I saw carefree children playing on the beach. This horrendous, soul-wrenching place now put a smile on my face and hope in my heart. *Little boys, you're right. I have come home.*

Postlude

I RETURNED TO DALLAS WITH A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. I WAS estranged from my former apathy for Africa; enlightened by its

culture; enveloped by her people. I was engaged by Africa's history and emancipated by the God-fearing determination of my elders who made freedom possible for me and my children. I was encouraged by the impact of World Vision's work with children and families. And I was enriched by the power of God, granting

women of faith

The Women of Faith ministry equips women to reach out to others and become an even more vital part of their communities and churches. In 1999, more than 375,000 women from 25 cities attending the organization's conferences were encouraged and challenged in their faith.

In 1998, Women of Faith began a partnership with World Vision. To date, more than 14,920 sponsored children and their families have been assisted by Women of Faith conference participants.

If you would like more information about upcoming Women of Faith activities in your area, call (888) 49-FAITH. To volunteer to help World Vision register sponsors at Women of Faith conferences, call (800) 432-4200.

me boldness to share my faith. God's grace took me to Africa and his grace led me home. ■

Thelma Wells is founder and president of A Woman of God Ministries in Dallas, Texas, and a Women of Faith conference leader. She has also written several books including What's Going On, Lord?.

mission

possible



Life-giving gift: Lake Grove members witnessed the Wolof people's dire need for clean water. Through World Vision, the congregation provided wells for 16 villages.

ACCORDING TO AUTHOR AND RESEARCHER GEORGE

Barna, highly effective churches possess a zeal for missions—

serving the poor both at home and abroad. Lake Grove Pres-

byterian, a thriving congregation of 1,200 people in Lake

Oswego, Ore., models this truth. Six years ago, several mem-

bers began praying for the Wolof people of northern Senegal—

poor, predominantly Muslim, sub-Saharan farmers. Today the

rich, cross-cultural friendship the church shares with Wolof

villagers is a study in contrasts and a lesson in faith. In this

interview, Lake Grove Pastor Bob Sanders describes how this

trans-Atlantic connection is transforming his congregation.

BY NATHALIE OVERLAND | Photographs by Lyle Vander Velde

Q. How did your church get involved in world missions?

A. Prior to our involvement with Senegal, mission was not a passion. I didn't have a strong passion myself. It wasn't that I disagreed with it, but as a pastor, it seemed like one more thing to do. I'd never been overseas, and it just wasn't on my radar screen. However, I was deeply convicted that my attitude was lacking. At our 1994 mission conference, a speaker from World Vision talked about unreached people in sub-Saharan Africa. He challenged us to pray for the Wolof people of northern Senegal. As 20 of us prayed, we wanted to know more about them. This led to our first trip in 1995, organized by World Vision.

Q. Describe your impressions of northern Senegal.

A. The people's need, especially for water, overwhelmed me. But there was also a strong hopefulness. Our team saw the powerful influence of the 600 borehole wells drilled by World Vision. We saw the contrast between villages without water and villages where boreholes had been drilled three years before. We wanted to help.

Q. What did the team do upon returning home?

A. We preached and prayed. We challenged the congregation to raise enough money for one borehole. When the offering raised enough for more than 10 wells, we knew something was happening that we didn't



True partners: Lake Grove members went to Senegal to build relationships, not impose an agenda, says Pastor Bob Sanders (shown in first photo).

quite understand. The imagery of water was powerful for our diverse congregation. Those interested in development understood that nothing is more basic and important than water. Those more concerned with evangelism saw the connection between water and faith that Jesus so often used.

Q. After that first trip, did you expect to return to Senegal?

A. Not really. The concept of a two-way partnership was new to our church. A few months after our trip, we invited Mansour Fall, a World Vision staff member from Senegal, to visit us. He brought first-hand reports about the wells we had supported and said the villagers had invited us to return. We said, "You mean this wasn't just a one-time hit? We can go back?"

Q. How did the church's relationship with the Wolof people grow?

A. Teams from our congregation (a total of 32 people) have now visited Senegal five times. During our first trip, we met a Senegalese pastor named Adama Diouf. He has since visited our congregation and preached in my pulpit. We support his outreach ministry in villages where World Vision is working. Each visit, we sit with village leaders and community members and ask questions. I would never presume to impose an agenda. We listen to them and together we come up with a list of priorities to accomplish together.

Q. What have those accomplishments included?

A. Through World Vision, we have helped provide wells for 16 villages and a 25,000-gallon water storage tank that supplies three communities. We have contributed toward agricultural training, the construction of two schools and a vocational training center for girls, and a health center. And we are also supporting a health clinic led and staffed by Senegalese Christians.



Q. Have you seen spiritual growth among the villagers?

A. The villages in our partnership formed a development federation they legally named "Lake Grove Land" which represents more than 3,000 people. It has become a model of hope. Other villages are asking, "Is there a church to partner with us?" As Pastor Diouf told us on our last trip, "You've demonstrated your love through five years of partnership, and you've earned the right to talk about your faith in Christ." Our ultimate hope is that one day there will be an indigenous Wolof church in Lake Grove Land.

Q. How has the partnership affected your congregation?

A. It has altered the way we look at our world and our culture—our "affluenza" as Tony Campolo puts it. We have a sense of the world's great need. The children in our Sunday school heard stories and saw pictures from Senegal. Their giving skyrocketed. They purchased thousands of dollars of school supplies for Senegalese children that our teams hand-carried over. The children can see what their nickels, dimes, and quarters are doing. Teachers tell me it has transformed their whole concept of stewardship.

Q. And the adults?

A. For many, the experiences in Senegal have changed their lives. They were mature believers but now they are radicalized and passionate. Mission has a face instead of just being something to which you write a



check. For a few people in our congregation, it has even been the catalyst for an adult conversion, a turning to Christ in a new way. Several people are considering changing careers to serve local missions.



Heart to heart: Through five years of friendship, Lake Grove members shared their faith in Christ with the Wolof people. The church supports a Senegalese pastor's outreach ministry in the predominantly Muslim villages.

Q. What challenges have you faced in developing this partnership?

A. Some members thought we should remain focused on supporting our own denominational missions. We still give a high percentage of our mission income to the Presbyterian Church. Others asked why we should go halfway around the world when there are crying needs in the Portland area. To me, it's not either/or but both/and. Those who have seen the needs in Senegal are among the most motivated to serve at home. Many are involved in outreaches such as Habitat for Humanity, migrant worker ministries, and the Portland Rescue Mission.

Q. Do other local churches share your vision?

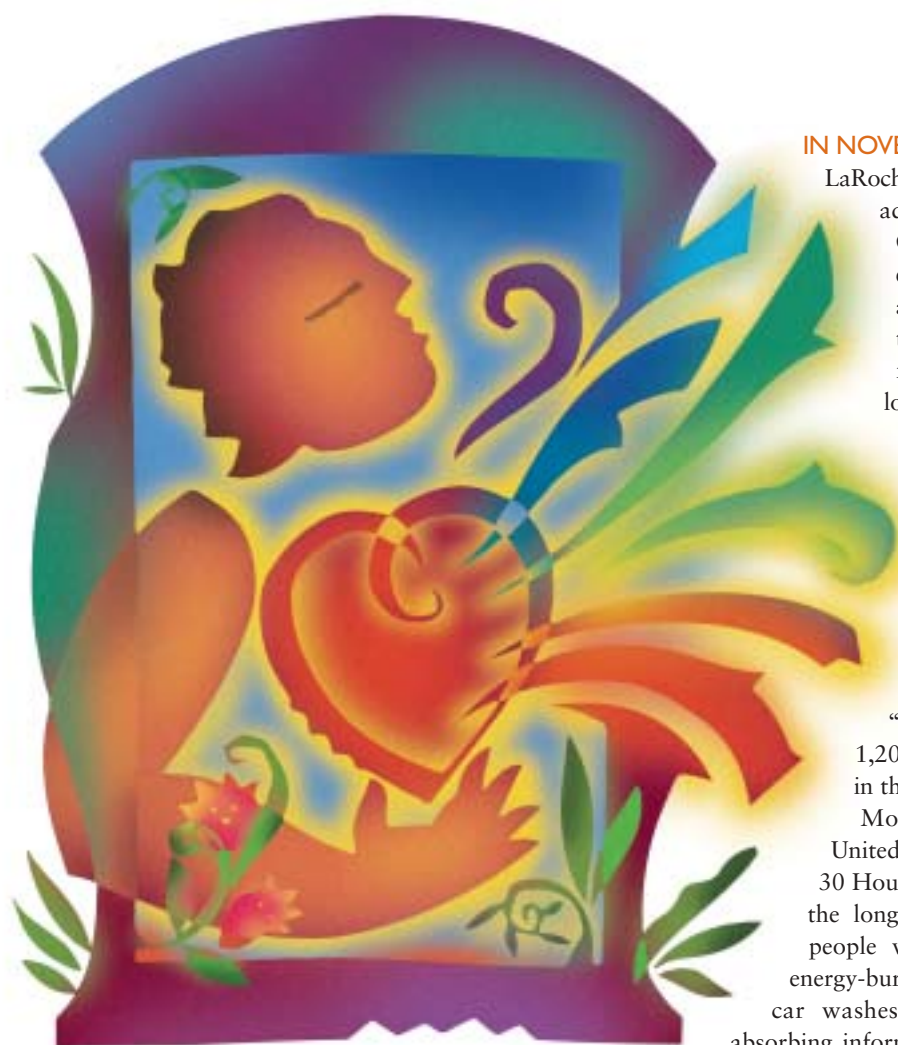
A. Yes. Columbia Presbyterian, our sister church in Vancouver, Wash., is also working with 15 villages in Senegal. They saw what was happening in our congregation and it struck a chord with their pastor, Heidi Husted, and many of their members. It's great for two Presbyterian churches to be in partnership as we in turn partner with the Wolof people.

Q. Your advice for churches interested in starting a similar outreach?

A. Focus on a people group rather than a continent or country. Think small. Pray. Learn as much as you can. If possible, select a small team and send them over. Use a *yenta*—an intermediary such as World Vision—someone on the ground who is trusted by the people. Spend time; build relationships. And as St. Francis reportedly said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." ■

A youth group hits “God’s bull’s-eye” with a successful and meaningful 30 Hour Famine event.

TEENS ANSWER GOD’S CALL



By Jane Sutton-Redner
Illustration by David Diaz

IN NOVEMBER 1999, YOUTH PASTOR KEVIN

LaRoche sat down with three teens and two adult volunteers to start planning Renton Christian Center’s 30 Hour Famine event. The Renton, Wash., group usually joined other Seattle-area churches to plan a kick-off rally to the annual fund-raising fast. But in 2000, due to logistics and timing, they were on their own. Kevin says their first question was for God. “What do you want us to do? Is this you? If it’s not, we don’t want to do it. If it is, we definitely want to do it.”

God not only answered in the affirmative, but led them in a new direction, away from the fun and games of past years. The result was “Answer the Call,” a rally inviting 1,200 young people to zero in on God’s call in their lives.

More than 15,000 groups across the United States signed up to participate in the 30 Hour Famine this year. The activities filling the long fasting hours are as unique as the people who plan them. Some groups enjoy energy-burning diversions like scavenger hunts or car washes. Some take an educational tack, absorbing information about global issues—especially world hunger—presented by speakers or videos. For many church groups, the 30 Hour Famine provides an opportunity to focus on the model of compassion and sacrifice: Jesus Christ.

“The first year I went into [the Famine], I thought, ‘Oh man,

all those hours without food—I don’t know about this,’” says Jordan Alicandro, 17, a seven-time Famine participant and one of the rally organizers. “But the last couple of years I was asking God to show me something, to move through me. He really came through on that part.”

Engaging the teens to encounter God during the 30 Hour Famine was the “bull’s-eye” that Kevin’s group hoped to hit. Music from a local Christian band, Souldeep, and Renton Christian’s own worship band, set the tone. “A couple of my unsaved friends from school came,” Jordan says. “They really weren’t sure what was going to happen, but they told me they really enjoyed [the rally]. They didn’t know Christian music could be so cool.”

Later in the evening, Tim Dearborn, Dean of the Chapel for Seattle Pacific University, preached about global poverty and exhorted the young people not to hesitate in seeking God’s plan for them. More than 40 kids responded to his first invitation to come to Christ. More than 100 came forward when he invited Christians to commit to the next step of serving others.

In previous years, event planners avoided such bold gestures out of respect for participants from various denominations, Kevin explains. “We didn’t want to offend anyone, but at the same time we really felt that this year God was saying, ‘These kids need to know Jesus.’” As it turned out, denominational differences were imperceptible among rally participants, who came from Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Baptist, and Foursquare churches.

Answer the Call was the largest 30 Hour Famine event in the United States, raising \$65,000 for all the groups who attended. “It was a real blessing and a confirmation that what we were doing was of God,” Jordan says.

Kevin credits the rally’s success to the six faithful planners and the support of the whole church body, from Renton Chris-

tian’s leadership down to the volunteers who plied participants with punch. But the key was their obedience. “Find out the bull’s-eye that God wants you to hit, what his heart is for the event,” Kevin advises. “Then go from there. He’ll show you.” ■

Change Your World

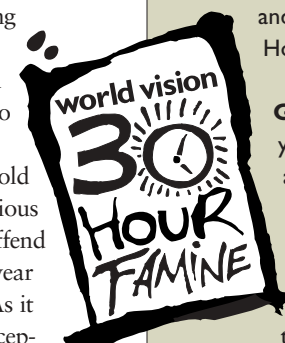
Through the 30 Hour Famine, you can change your world. Here’s how:

Get connected: To sign up your group, call toll-free (800) 7-FAMINE or go online at www.30hourfamine.org. You’ll receive free materials including a Leaders/Activity Guide, educational material, a Bible study, a video, a poster, and everything else you need to plan a great 30 Hour Famine.

Get sponsored: Prior to the Famine weekend, your group members will tell friends and family about the 30 Hour Famine and get them to sponsor your 30 hours without food.

Get hungry: The national Famine dates are Feb. 23 - 24, 2001 (but you can do it anytime). On the Famine weekend, your group will get together to go without food for 30 hours and experience in a small way what hunger feels like. You’ll also get a new perspective on your world and on how you can make a difference.

Give hope: Send your group’s donations to World Vision and change kids’ hunger pains into hope in places like Peru, Tanzania, Rwanda, and the United States. ■



INTRODUCTION BY
TONY CAMPOLO

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I STOOD ON THE banks of the Senegal River in the Sahel region of West Africa and surveyed the remains of a once-surging and life-giving water supply. I listened as a chief told us that his nomadic tribe's cattle had all died from lack of water, and that most of the able-bodied young men had left the tribe to work in Senegal's capital, Dakar. The little water that was left in the river was being pumped to Dakar to prevent political unrest among its thirsty citizens.

clean water *for a* thirsty world

walking on water

Fifteen years ago, World Vision began drilling borehole wells in Ghana, West Africa, where almost half the rural population lack access to clean water. Thanks to the financial support of American donors and the enthusiastic participation of Ghanaian villagers, the resulting 1,500 wells have infused communities with energy and pride. BY KAREN HOMER



Water's hidden risks: Collecting water from remote sources is not only time-consuming but dangerous. Each year water-related diseases kill at least 3 million people, including more than 2 million children who die from diarrhea.

The world's supply of drinkable water is not increasing, while the earth's population grows by 78 million each year. The relationship between these two facts is all too obvious.

Water shortages already are contributing to international tensions. Arguments over who will control the fresh water supplied by the Sea of Galilee are hampering Israel's peace talks with Syria and Jordan. Egypt's 67 million people depend on the Nile for water, but must share this resource with eight other African countries who are draining off water and polluting what is left. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former United Nations secretary-general, called this situation a threat to Egypt's national security that could lead to war.

On a daily basis, however, those who suffer most from water scarcity are the poor, the estimated 1 billion people without access to safe water. Anyone who has traveled to a developing country on a short-term mission trip can testify to how difficult it is to find drinkable water, and tell of children weakened by illnesses from germ-infested water. Every eight seconds, one of those children dies.

Water scarcity presents impossible dilemmas for people who subsist on less than a dollar a day. Desalination of ocean water or long-distance irrigation systems are too expensive to be practical solutions. People cannot improve

their crops, their homes, or their opportunities without water, the basis of life.

In Haiti, I witnessed children spending all day walking long distances with pails on their heads to collect water. Called *restaveks*, these children numbering 300,000 are from families too poor to care for them, so they must live with wealthier families who are all too willing to exploit them. The water-bearing children, dressed in rags and unable to go to school, will eat leftovers and live out their lives in misery.

Americans may feel compelled to respond to the global water problem out of concern for world peace. But Christians heed a higher call. When judging the nations, Jesus will ask if we gave him a drink when we saw him thirsty. And if on that day we try to plead ignorance and say that we never saw him thirsty, he will point to the billion people in the world who lack drinkable water and say, "When you failed to give water to the least of these, you failed to give it unto me." ■

Tony Campolo is an author, renowned speaker, and a sociology professor at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa. He offers free newsletters and publishes his speaking itinerary at www.tonycampolo.com.



ROSE AKYEMAH, 39, WIELDS her wrench with confident expertise, unbolting the handle of the water pump mounted on a borehole well. Three fellow maintenance team members—all male—watch intently. Rose signals with a nod and together they hoist off the pump's heavy galvanized steel casing. She inspects the pump's piston rods, making sure they are well-greased. For an hour, she and her crew pore over

the pump, checking and cleaning its parts. Dozens of curious children, empty pails balanced on their heads, watch the pump operate again in time for everyone to draw water before sundown? They needn't worry. The pump, Rose explains proudly, hasn't failed since 1991 when World Vision installed the borehole in Asikam, a village of 1,500 people nestled below a majestic sandstone escarpment in Ghana's Greater Afram Plains.

"Our pump supplies more than enough water, and it's the best tasting around," says Rose, a mother of five including 2-year-old son, Okyere, a sponsored child. Rose, a stocky woman with a determined air, is among the 2,707 volunteer pump repair workers trained to maintain the 1,500 boreholes installed by World Vision in Ghana. As a Christian, Rose considers her community service an act of gratitude to God for her village's newfound health and prosperity. She

Priming the pump: World Vision trains local pump maintenance volunteers like Rose Akyemah (pictured) to keep the water flowing.





Cutting class: Without safe water sources nearby, children trek to collect water at the expense of going to school or studying.

evaporate. The thick layer of rock beneath the clay earth makes construction of hand-dug wells difficult. People are forced to fetch water from stagnant, contaminated sources or from unprotected groundwater.

“When we cooked in the brown water from the stream, it discolored the food,” said Rose’s neighbor, Sampson Asiedu. “It smelled so nauseating that you lost your appetite. This is what we had to serve to our children.” Water-related illnesses abounded, including diarrhea, malaria, and guinea worm.

The lack of water hobbled the village economically. The men couldn’t earn

extra income by raising chickens or pigs which consume gallons of water daily. Women dreamed about starting a pottery business with the village’s abundant clay, but that too required a steady water supply. Girls were often kept home from school to fetch water.

The water shortage also caused profound social embarrassment. In Ghana’s rich tradition of hospitality, guests and travelers are always greeted with a warm *akwaaba* (welcome) and a cup of cold water. In parched Asikam, families dreaded visitors. “We had to close our doors to our own relatives. We couldn’t spare any water for them to drink or

WATER FACT
POVERTY Lacking access to inexpensive municipal piped water systems, poor families may pay up to 50 times more for lower-quality water from mobile vendors. (*The World’s Water/Gleick*)

bathe,” Rose said. “We felt ashamed.”

Desperate to improve their water situation, in the 1970s the villagers enlisted government workers to build an expensive cement catchment box around the mouth of a stream. But no one was trained to maintain it. The results were disastrous. Water soon stagnated in the

Comparing consumption: The average North American uses 100 gallons of water a day; toilet flushing alone accounts for 24 gallons. The average African uses three gallons daily.

disintegrating structure. The community struggled with even less water.

SUSPICIOUS OF SUCCESS

In 1990, Asikam’s elders learned that World Vision was launching a well-drilling program in the Greater Afram Plains region. The Conrad N. Hilton Fund provided a \$5 million grant—\$3 million matched by American donors—to drill 600 boreholes in the area. The inter-village grapevine reported that World Vision’s generator-powered rigs could bring water gushing up from hundreds of feet below the surface. The borehole would provide up to 22,000 gallons per day, more than ample for the village’s needs. The elders contacted World Vision.

World Vision engineers explained that



remembers when people in Asikam, which historically means “place of gold,” panned for something far more precious: water.

NEVER ENOUGH

As a girl, and later as a young mother, Rose left the house daily at 4 a.m. to fetch water. She trudged through the dense brush in the dark with other village women to a small stream trickling up from the earth. Digging back soil and leaves with their hands, a few women collected enough water from the contaminated source to fill their buckets. The others queued up, waiting hours for the water level to rise again. By 6 a.m., they filed back to their huts to tackle their long list of chores: cooking, washing, cleaning, and bathing the children before heading to the fields. There was never enough water and never enough time.

“Since my great-great grandfather’s time, Asikam has had a water problem,” said village elder Asomani, 72. It seems incredible that this lush, semi-tropical landscape could lack water. But during the six-month dry season, streams and ponds



hydrological surveys of the area looked promising. They chose Asikam as the site of the first borehole. Were they interested? Surprisingly, the villagers hesitated.

“I couldn’t imagine it working,” recalled Nana Adomako, 54, Asikam’s deputy chief. “The workers who built our catchment could not solve the problem, even with all their cement. How would all this water come from a hole this big?” he asked, drawing a saucer-sized circle in the clay.

World Vision staff answered questions and quelled fears. The community agreed to raise 300,000 cedis (about \$10,000) toward the 50 million cedi borehole, and contribute volunteer labor—an important step in creating community ownership for the borehole. Volunteers would be trained to maintain and repair the handpump installed on the 140-foot-deep borehole. The date for the drilling was set: Jan. 10, 1991.

Bismark Nerquaye-Tetteh, now World Vision Ghana’s national director, was the project’s chief hydrologist. “There was no sense of life or energy in the place,” he

recalled. “Asikam reminded me of so many villages in Ghana: weary women carrying buckets of water on their heads and babies strapped to their backs. Sadly, they had no idea that they were literally walking on water.”

That was about to change.

On Jan. 10, World Vision caterpillar trucks inched their way over miles of rough terrain to reach Asikam. Eager to support World Vision’s well-drilling efforts, the local government had quickly constructed a makeshift access road. Mobs of men, women, and children surrounded the machinery as it crept along. Work and school were abandoned.

S.O. Asante, now 62, remembers the event vividly—and laughs at his initial suspicions. “When I saw World Vision’s

WATER FACT

SCARCITY About 20 countries are currently water-scarce or water-short. That number is expected to double by 2020. (United Nations)

equipment, I thought they were deceiving us and that they were really coming to mine for gold.” Asikam is situated in one of Ghana’s richest former gold-mining areas. “I didn’t believe until I saw the water.”

Suspicion soon turned to celebration when the drill rig hit water on the third day. As the water jetted into the air, women and children grabbed anything that would hold water. They couldn’t believe the water would still be running

the next day, let alone next year. A decade later, the borehole is still pumping, serving a bustling, energetic community of hopeful, motivated people.

LIFE CHANGES

Bubuanhunu—incalculable, in the Twi language. That’s how men and women in Asikam describe the borehole’s economic and social impact. Farmers jointly operate a 2,000-seedling tree nursery, irrigated with borehole water. Many women, including Rose, make extra money producing and selling pottery. Several hundred children are enrolled in Asikam’s school, built and supported by parents. The community needs far less support now: the number of World Vision sponsored children dropped from 95 in

1995 to 56 currently. And the Asikam Inn is under construction—a humble guest house offering dusty travelers a cool shower and a warm akwaaba welcome.

The steady supply of fresh water has transformed family life, reports Rose. “Being a mother is much easier,” she says, emptying a basin of borehole water into her steel storage drum. “I don’t have to carry laundry to the stream and dig for water. I can do the washing right here. And I see a big difference in my children’s health. The two youngest who were born after the borehole was installed are much healthier than my eldest three because of the quality of our drinking water.”

Rose says her household income has more than doubled. She and her husband, Kyere Ntim, have time for small business endeavors such as soap making, duck

WATER FACT

FRESHWATER About 97.5 percent of the earth’s water is salty and undrinkable, and 2.5 percent of freshwater is locked in polar icecaps or underground aquifers, leaving less than 1 percent available for human use. (World Health Organization)

raising, and pottery production. They are building a second small, mud-walled hut. And they have more time for each other. “Frankly, the water has improved our married life. I don’t leave my husband at dawn anymore,” said Rose with a shy laugh.

The installation of the borehole has netted spiritual gains as well, according to deputy chief Nana Adomako. “Before, we worshipped God, but each small church operated in isolation. Working together as a community on the water project, along with instruction and training from World Vision staff, brought us together. Now we discuss how we can live out the gospel. This new unity began with the coming of the water.”

Perhaps village elder Samuel Odei, 64, expressed the community’s gratitude best: “We have water now. We have life.”

WORDS OF WATER WISDOM

While people in Asikam celebrate their progress and prosperity since World Vision installed boreholes in their community, they are acutely aware that other villages still suffer illnesses and hardship. An estimated 46 percent of Ghana’s rural population do not have access to clean water.

Watro is one such village. In the Twi language, Watro means “failed”—an apt description of the community’s decades-long struggle to obtain clean water. Despite the scarcity, residents did what they could to improve living conditions.

After learning from World Vision staff and government health workers how to combat guinea worm, a crippling, parasitic, water-borne disease, Watro rallied against the scourge. Respected elderly villagers convinced the skeptical to participate. Women faithfully boiled and filtered water through a fine mesh sieve. Men posted round-the-clock guards by the community pond, insuring that guinea worm victims would not step into the

water and contaminate it. Children kept livestock from drinking there. Within a year, guinea worm had failed in Watro.

But sadly, water shortages and other water-borne diseases persist. “We’ve done everything possible to address our water problems, but we need help. We are praying that we can cooperate with World Vision to solve our problem,” said chief Nana Obiri Nyako. “We’ve seen change in communities that have a borehole. Their children are clean, and they have time to go to school. They have small businesses like brick making and tree nurseries. Their young men don’t leave to find work in the city. We want these things for Watro.”

Recently, Watro residents were excited to learn that World Vision engineers plan to drill a borehole here soon. Anxious to prepare, they welcomed advice from other villages already equipped with a borehole. Asikam villagers eagerly brainstormed 10 years of water wisdom for Watro.

“Trust. Don’t behave as we did initially,” said Yaw Akromah, a 38-year-old father. “We were suspicious and didn’t cooperate fully at first. World Vision has your good in mind.”

“Participate, don’t grumble,” said Asomani, 72, a village elder. “We resisted when World Vision asked us to supply stones, sand, and labor to construct a cement laundry pad near the pump platform because we’d never seen such a thing.”

“Get your women involved,” said Agnes Omane, 60. “In Asikam, we provided meals for the well drillers. Today, we have so much less work to do thanks to their help.”

“Volunteer,” said Rose Akeymah, 39. “With the time the borehole saves you, you can help your community. Learn to maintain the pump or serve on the water management committee.”

“Be patient. You will see your village progress once you have water,” commented Sampson Asiedu, 37.

The Watro villagers listened intently to the advice conveyed from Asikam by a World Vision envoy. The chief responded, “Please take our greetings to Asikam and thank them. They are our friends. Please ask them to pray for us: that we will no longer thirst, and that our village will prosper as they have.” ■

Clean delivery: Midwife Abena Yeboah built her hut just yards from the pump to assist new mothers like Mary Owusua (pictured).



water world

An estimated 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water. The majority live in developing countries. Water scarcity is not only caused by weather or environmental factors. Poverty is a significant determinant—people cannot afford to drill wells, lay pipes, or build effective catchments. The poor often spend more time and money obtaining inadequate water than we do to enjoy our abundant, high-quality supply. Realizing water's integral role in daily life, World Vision hydrologists and health workers help communities improve access to clean water in hundreds of community development projects worldwide. The map below shows a small sampling of World Vision's efforts to bring clean water to a thirsty world:

EL SALVADOR: Soil erosion and the increasing population's demand for water threaten to turn this tiny country into a desert. World Vision is working with residents of San Isidro to divert human waste from the water supply and to recruit sponsored children to help reforest the surrounding area. Staff also helped seven communities update their water systems by replacing badly rusted tanks and pipes.

BOLIVIA: In Sebastian Pagador, poor families purchased used swimming pool water for drinking and washing. Children suffered water-borne diseases and skin infections. World Vision helped install a piped water system, providing clean water to more than 400 families.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: People in Filipinas once spent two hours at a time collecting contaminated water; before World Vision empowered the community to implement a new water system. With World Vision engineering and supervision, residents placed 10 miles of pipe, built three tanks, and set up electric lines to power the water pumps. Now they tax themselves \$1 a month to pay for electricity and maintenance.

MALI: World Vision helped villagers in dry, barren Encara village to slow the run-off from annual, torrential rains by building inexpensive dams out of stones and wire fencing. Water now seeps into the soil, replenishing the water table and moistening the earth for growing sorghum.

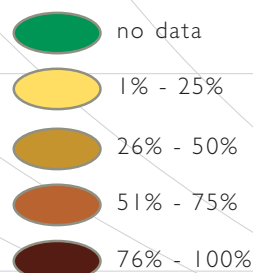
CONGO: Masangu village's only water source was a well built out of the hole left by an elephant's footprint. Women woke at 1 a.m. to fetch water and spent so much time gathering it that their husbands became suspicious of infidelity. World Vision provided five local boreholes, keeping the women closer to home and improving village marriages.

MOZAMBIQUE: Women and children gathering water from the Zambezi River in northern Mopeia risked life and limb from crocodiles, which killed up to 30 people a year. World Vision helped villagers build 49 wells in the region, ensuring that all homes are no more than a third of a mile from a clean, crocodile-free water source.

SRI LANKA: As the population swelled in the arid Lunugamvehera district, a single reservoir's water supply became unbearably stretched. World Vision worked with the government to construct additional water tanks and build pipes into nine communities, benefiting 1,375 families. With accessible water, families can plant vegetable gardens and banana cash crops.

CHINA: In the remote villages of Ningxia province, people used to obtain water by chipping blocks of ice from steep, slippery gullies and transporting them through subzero temperatures to their homes. World Vision helped villagers build more than 375 cement cellars for storing rainwater, which is cleaner and better-tasting than the salty, bitter, gully water.

Percent of population without access



MAP ILLUSTRATION BY DALE GLASGOW AND ASSOCIATES

BY JANE SUTTON-REDNER
Map source: *The World's Water: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources* (Gleick, 1998).

News

► Worldwide, at least 380 million people speak languages that have no available scripture. (Wycliffe Bible Translators)

► The proportion of the world's hungry people has dropped from one-third to one-fifth since 1970. (Bread for the World)

► The current generation of children under 18 is the largest in world history. Adolescents aged 10 to 19 comprise more than one-fifth of the world's population. (UNICEF)

Compiled by Karen Homer with reports from Jutta Devenish, Charles Maingi, Dana Palade, and Lily Venkatarangam.

CRISIS UPDATES

Lebanon

Families in southern Lebanon are struggling to afford basic necessities after Israel removed military forces from the region on May 24. While the end of the 22-year occupation was cause for national celebration, the withdrawal dealt a blow to southern Lebanon's already fragile economy which depended on income generated from the occupation. In a matter of days, the unemployment rate in the Marjayoun district jumped from 20 percent to 80 percent. Single-parent families, the elderly, and the disabled are especially affected by the income loss.

World Vision is expanding its work to southern Lebanon. Staff distributed vouchers to 1,500 needy families to purchase food, hygiene products, and cooking gas. Staff also provided emergency water to 320 families in Ainebel village who lost their water supply from Israel when the military left.

Sierra Leone

World Vision distributed emergency food to 4,000 people forced from their homes after renewed fighting between rebels and pro-government forces erupted in May. The agency's extensive food-for-work agricultural program in the south continued to operate through the crisis, supporting thousands of farmers.

In Sierra Leone, children account for half of the estimated 50,000 people killed during the nine-year civil conflict, and comprise the majority of the 20 percent of the population disabled by the fighting.

Mozambique

World Vision continues to care for more than 75,000 survivors of February's floods, including nearly 9,000 people crowded into a temporary camp in Nhacutse, a town in the southern province of Gaza. Weekly food rations are distributed as well as survival kits including blankets, cooking utensils, and shelter material.

The displaced people still cannot go home. Floodwaters destroyed their farms and killed their livestock. Children cannot attend school—a discouraging setback in a country where only 40 percent of the population can read and write. However, World Vision has obtained funding for a road rehabilitation program and the agency plans to reconstruct six flood-damaged schools and health posts.

Good News

Pierce Award Winners Honored

A former Kenyan businessman and an Australian missionary who dedicated their lives to homeless children and outcast lepers recently received the Robert W. Pierce Award for Christian Service, bestowed annually in memory of World Vision founder Robert W. Pierce.

Charles Mulli, 50, opened his home in Eldoret, Kenya, to street children, then sold his chain of businesses in 1989 to establish and expand the Mully Children's Family Home. The center now cares for 470 former street children, providing food, accommodation, medical care, and education. World Vision has supported the home since 1997.

The late Graham Staines served the leper community in Mayurbhanj, India, for 34 years with the Queensland Baptist Church of Australia. "Graham had a great love for the leprosy patients," said his wife, Gladys Staines. "Their needs superseded all other matters." Graham and his two sons died in January 1999 when the vehicle in which they were sleeping was set ablaze during a church camping trip in Orissa, India. This is the first time the Pierce Award has been given posthumously.

A Call to Renewal

The "Call to Renewal" network is challenging Christians in churches and other faith-based organizations to join in a biblical commitment to overcome poverty, dismantle racism, promote healthier families and communities, and reassert the dignity of each human life.

Jim Wallis, convener and president of the Washington, D.C.-based movement, explains that this isn't a new organization, but a federation that individuals, churches, and groups can join. Call to Renewal sets a new table that will bring people together to affect all levels of society. The federation encourages believers to join thousands who have signed a "Covenant to Overcome Poverty," indicating their willingness to put faith into action and poverty on the national agenda.

To support the Call to Renewal campaign or to obtain more information, call (800) 523-2773, visit www.calltorenewal.com, or write Call to Renewal, 2401 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20009.

Resources on Water

- *The World's Water 2000-2001. The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources*, by Peter H. Gleick, Island Press, 2000.
- *The Water Encyclopedia*, by Frits van der Leeden, Fred L. Troise, and David Keith Todd, CRC Press, 1990.
- www.worldwater.org/links.htm. A list of water-related sites including governments, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions.
- www.worldbank.org/depweb/english/modules/envIRONM/water/index.htm. Interesting information, learning modules, and activities for the classroom.

SPONSORSHIP

Girls as Their Own Advocates

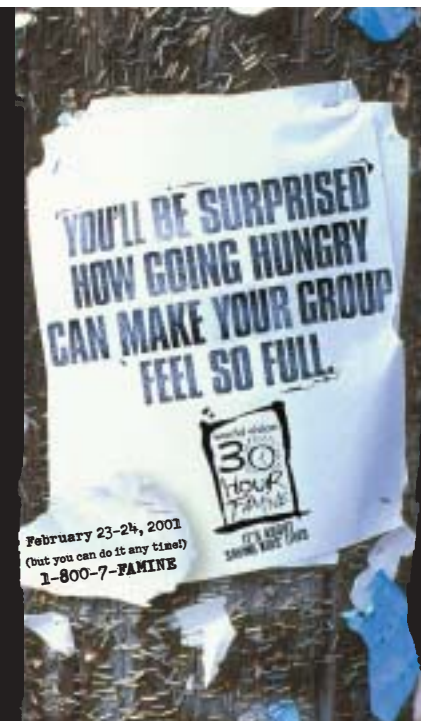
Four young World Vision beneficiaries spoke at a Girl Child Symposium at the United Nations in June. Girls from around the world were invited to the New York event to share their personal stories and to serve as advocates for peace, protection, and opportunities for children.

Sponsored child Romylyn Bernal Alejado, 16, who co-anchors a radio program on children's issues in Cavite City, the Philippines, discussed the media's role in influencing girls' choices. Romylyn recently finished high school through the support of her American sponsors. Grace Acayo, 18, recounted being abducted in 1995 by the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group terrorizing northern Uganda. She was forced to fight and to become a soldier's sexual partner. Once freed, she received counseling and rehabilitation at World Vision's Gulu Center.

Other World Vision-connected participants at the UN events were Odillia Martin, 19, who serves as a World Vision "Shalom promoter" encouraging girls in rural Guatemala to pursue education; and 17-year-old former sponsored child Monica Andrea Godoy, a leader of Colombia's Children's Peace Movement which was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1998.



Romylyn Bernal Alejado, Monica Andrea Godoy, Grace Acayo, and Odillia Martin spoke out for girls' rights and opportunities.



World Vision

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is an international movement to fight hunger and save kids' lives. When your group gets together and goes 30 hours without food, they'll get a "taste" of what so many poverty-stricken people feel every day. And when they raise money to help feed hungry children and families, their hearts will fill with compassion. They will literally change the world—one life at a time.



Change is inevitable. Positive change requires your leadership—and the right tools. Order your FREE Famine materials today!

Call today!
1-800-7-FAMINE.
www.30hourfamine.org

BAAS

it's

Does your company support charitable causes?
World Vision provides an array of opportunities for employees
and corporations to expand their giving to the poor.

your
business

AT KELLY & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE GROUP'S HEADQUARTERS IN BALTIMORE, MD., IT'S NO COINCIDENCE

that World Vision sponsorship folders adorn the walls in some 70 cubicles. The company has a vision for a village: improving health, education, water, and agriculture for families in Tiya, Ethiopia, where two out of every 10 children die before age 5. Employees' sponsorship pledges, matched dollar for dollar by the company, enable World Vision to build schools and health clinics, drill wells, and provide farming and entrepreneurial training. CEO Frank Kelly explains that child sponsorship fulfills a vital corporate desire to give back to the community—even if the community is half a world away.

It's good business these days for companies to demonstrate social responsibility by supporting a charitable cause. Both customers and employees favor it (see box, right). By linking with nonprofits like World Vision, a corporation can do much more than earn a tax deduction. It can help provide solutions to poverty-related problems, increase corporate spirit by rallying employees around a cause, and raise its public image as a company that cares.

"Charity doesn't only begin at home—charity can begin at the office," says Rich Stearns, World Vision president. "Through programs such as matching gifts and group sponsorships, people can give in personal ways, and their donations become even more effective with corporate support."

CONSUMERS CARE ...

- 84% have a more positive image of a company that supports a cause they care about.
- Two-thirds would opt for the retailer associated with a good cause when given a choice between two products of equal price and quality.

EMPLOYEES CARE ...

- 87% of employees of companies involved with causes feel a strong sense of loyalty to their employers.
- 56% of workers wish their employers would do more to support a cause.

Source: The 1999 Cone/Roper Cause Related Trends Report

Historically, organizations primarily received funds from companies' philanthropic foundations. Now there are more avenues for giving, involving employees as well as CEOs:

Matching gifts. Companies match (and sometimes exceed) employees' donations to World Vision, leveraging additional support for health, education, safe water, and other programs. Gifts also provide special emergency assistance for children through World Vision's Childcare Ministry Fund. Many corporations match donations from retired employees, board members, and employees' spouses. Some even offer a financial match for employees' volunteer time.

Matching gifts and volunteer programs are attractive to employees, says Rick Luftglass, Associate Director of Philanthropy for Pfizer Inc., the New York-based pharmaceutical company. "It demonstrates that the company is committed and concerned—values that employees and new hires look for in the place where they're spending at least a third of their day." Twenty percent of Pfizer personnel support charities through matching gifts, including 24 employees who gave more than \$25,000 to World Vision in 1999.

Child sponsorship. Like Kelly & Associates, companies can partner with their own employees to help needy children through World Vision. Group sponsorships often focus on specific geographic areas. Miami-based Tronex Corporation, which provides security systems in Latin America, launched "Mission 500" to sponsor 500 children in that region within five years.

Gifts-in-kind. In 1998, corporations donated more than \$128 million out of their excess inventory—products such as clothing, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, school materials, and personal care supplies—to World Vision for needy families. Hasbro Inc. first donated toys to Central American children traumatized by Hurricane Mitch. Now the company has broadened its partnership with World Vision by providing toys for orphans in Jerusalem, Romania, and Mongolia. Gifts-in-kind also benefit U.S. families. Birkenstock donated more than 2,400 pairs of sandals to Oklahoma City residents who lost everything in last year's tornado.

Corporate gift-giving. Companies invest millions in gift baskets, greeting cards, and holiday parties for their clients, vendors, and staff. World Vision's Gift Catalog offers a unique way for companies to honor individuals through gifts that bring life-changing hope to children and families in need.

Non-monetary corporate alliances. Donations aren't the only way companies can help World Vision serve the poor. Recently World Vision began a part-



JON WARREN/WORLD VISION

how can my company get involved?

- Find out if your company matches gifts to 501c3 organizations. If so, ask for a matching gifts form from your personnel department and send it to World Vision with your next donation.
- If your company promotes giving through United Way, you can designate World Vision as your charity of choice.
- If child sponsorship is your passion, propose a group sponsorship to your colleagues.
- Does your company manufacture or distribute products that could be useful to families overseas? Suggest donating excess inventory to World Vision.
- Instead of your company giving fruit baskets this Christmas, why not provide fruit trees for a poor family in the Dominican Republic? Call (888) 511-6511 for the 2001 World Vision Gift Catalog.

Making the world smile: Toys from Hasbro donated to World Vision brighten the lives of traumatized children and orphans.

nership with iBelieve.com, a Christian Web site. By contributing information on poverty issues, World Vision saves iBelieve.com the costs of hiring content-providers. In return, the site links to World Vision, increasing the organization's reach on the Internet. ■

Rosanne Nichols, director of corporate partnerships for World Vision, invites you to explore ways your company can come alongside World Vision's ministry to the poor. Call (253) 815-2161 for more information.

from poverty to plenty



Effective World Vision programs turn a famine-stricken Ethiopian community into a booming agricultural center.

drought ravaged the region in 1984. Today, Molle is part of a project that serves 150,000 people, funded by child sponsors in New Zealand, Australia, and the United States.

“We praise God for this place because it’s suitable for irrigation,” says Gaga, grandfather of six sponsored children. “The rains were short and late this year, but because we’re using irrigation, we have not suffered. Otherwise we would be dependent on food aid, or we would die waiting for it.”

World Vision staff member Jembere Zewdie says people understood the importance of irrigation, but they lacked the skills to implement it. The beauty of a food for work scheme, he explains, is that it doesn’t create dependency. “If you give food for free, people will just sit under a tree waiting for it to be given again. This way you teach them how to produce food for themselves.”

New and improved crop varieties introduced by World Vision have expanded Molle farmers’ horizons beyond their wildest dreams. In just a few short years, the area has become famous for bananas. Eager traders arrive from the capital bringing wads of cash to buy Molle’s surplus fruit. Residents are hardly making a mint by Western standards, but as Jembere points out, they were formerly subsistence farmers, so their incomes have skyrocketed. “Even if they suffer a severe drought, they will have cash reserves to help them through the crisis,” Jembere says.

More success is in store for Molle. Farmers are learning to cultivate vegetables such as carrots, beet root, and cabbage for cash crops as well as to improve the local diet. Staff are also educating the community to cope with seasonal fluctuations so families will not be devastated in the lean years.

Driving away from Molle, I can’t help smiling as

I pass acres of banana crops and oxen ploughing fields. I’m reminded of the distorted picture we get from the world’s media about Africa. By focusing exclusively on dire problems, it’s easy to wrongly conclude that the situation of countries like Ethiopia is hopeless. Molle proves otherwise. The right interventions, made in the right way by dedicated individuals, can and do bring transformation. ■

James Addis is a World Vision photojournalist based in Auckland, New Zealand.

ETHIOPIA: LAND OF PLENTY! ETHIOPIA REAPS BUMPER HARVEST! ETHIOPIA GRANARIES BURST AT SEAMS!



Such headlines seem unbelievable next to stories of starvation and suffering coming out of southeastern Ethiopia. But it’s no fantasy. In Molle, a village 280 miles south of the capital, Addis Ababa, the countryside is green, the cattle are fat. The area’s surplus bananas and mangoes supply markets in Addis Ababa and bring cash to the region. People are healthy, facing the future with a jaunty air of self-confidence.

Astonishing considering that a few years ago, Molle would have been in similar straits as other drought-hit regions of Ethiopia—facing hunger, disease, and death.

Farmer Gaga Naga credits Molle’s resilience despite uncertain rains to its canal system. Built under a World Vision “food for work” program, whereby locals were paid for their labor with food, the canals channel water from the nearby highlands and irrigate low-lying farmland. The irrigation scheme was a primary way World Vision helped families here recover after

Bumper harvest: Thanks to irrigation canals built with World Vision’s assistance, Molle village has weathered Ethiopia’s drought. Farmers continue to produce surplus fruits to sell in the capital.

drought updates

ETHIOPIA: The Ethiopian government estimates that 10.3 million people will require food aid through the next few months. World Vision is working with the government and humanitarian organizations to distribute food to citizens in the worst-hit drought areas. Medical staff are caring for severely malnourished children in a hospital pediatric ward in southeastern Gode, where starvation levels are catastrophic, and in a therapeutic feeding center in Sodo Zuria, a southern district.

KENYA: President Daniel Arap Moi says that a looming, drought-induced famine threatens 23 million Kenyans—about 80 percent of the population. Some areas haven’t had decent rainfall since 1998. In northern Wajir, where more than 20,000 children under 5 face malnutrition, World Vision operates children’s therapeutic feeding centers. In Moyale, another northern district, World Vision has distributed food to 40,500 people who are dependent on relief aid after losing much of their livestock.

INDIA: The failure of 1999’s monsoon has caused northwestern India’s worst drought in 100 years. World Vision is providing relief aid to families in affected communities served by 12 projects (including four projects funded by the United States, supporting more than 5,000 children). A USAID grant is helping to fund a cash for work program in 120 villages where residents are deepening large ponds to improve the storage of rainwater.

Where Are They Now?



WHAT DREAMS MAY COME

World Vision sponsorship granted rural Thailand

resident Nong Yao Thamrai, 23, a chance to pursue her dream of nursing.

IN THAILAND TRAVEL GUIDES, PHAYAO IS LISTED AS an off-the-beaten-track locale known for its large, freshwater lake, Buddhist temples, and ancient roots as the site of a human settlement dating back to the Bronze Age. Phayao may attract tourists, but this impoverished northern province has little to offer its own 500,000 residents. Its yearly per capita income, \$710, is well below the national average of \$2,740. Lack of good jobs in the rural areas compels many young people to leave Phayao to find work in Bangkok or other cities.

Thampaleh, she was prepared to do the same once she finished 12th grade.

Working in the city can be dangerous for rural girls. Desperate for jobs, they can fall prey to Southeast Asia's booming sex trade. Young, innocent teens like the Thamrai sisters are prime targets for avaricious employers.

In 1994, World Vision began assisting Phayao girls at risk of exploitation. Sponsorship enabled 199 girls to complete high school, and another 377 teens received vocational training. Nong Yao, then in 10th grade, was among a few girls chosen for assistance for college. (Although typically sponsorship funds only basic education, she was granted an exception because of the project's focus and her strong interest in further schooling). After supporting her last two years of high school, Nong Yao's sponsors chose to pay for tuition and supplies through nursing college.

Nong Yao aspired to become a nurse since age 8, when she fell off a cart and broke her leg. "I was impressed by the nurse who looked after me. I decided that was what I wanted to do."

Now Nong Yao is a pediatric nurse at the hospital in Phayao, the province's main town of 26,000 people. "I love

children," says the slender, vivacious woman. "I find that working with children requires patience and a good heart, as well as the ability to stay calm. Even though parts of my job are not pleasant, like cleaning up after a sick child, I cannot complain. As a nurse I have to be sensitive to the children's emotions and to their pain."

Nong Yao earns a monthly salary that is half her parents' annual income. Hoping to ease her family's financial burdens, she sends them \$50 each month. She lives simply in the hospital staff's dormitory, sharing a room with another nurse. Her only luxury is a motorcycle, useful for her weekend retreats to Thampaleh, a quiet village of 200 families about seven miles outside of town. Back at her childhood home, she enjoys gardening with her father, tending plants in anything from proper pots to plastic pop cans.

In the same patient, quiet way, Nong Yao also nurtures her newfound Christian faith. Raised Buddhist like 95 percent of Thais, she was introduced to Christianity through World Vision as a sponsored child. Over several years her curiosity grew, and when she became a nurse, her Christian coworkers invited her to Bible studies. Last year Nong Yao made a commitment to Christ. "My life has changed in a better way," she reflects. "I am learning to watch my lifestyle and have more discipline."

Already firmly focused on her career, faith, and family, Nong Yao doesn't seem to lack discipline. But she plans to supplement her nursing training with a bachelor's degree from prestigious Chiang Mai University, a goal she willingly put on hold while she helps her brother, Rongnachai, through technical college.

"I'm very proud of Nong Yao. I'm happy to see her working in a good profession," says Nong Yao's grandmother, Khankrew.

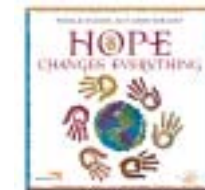
Nong Yao is grateful that World Vision not only helped her stay close to home, but also provides opportunities for other young people, enabling them to contribute to Phayao's quality of life. "World Vision means: Dreams will come true," she says. ■

Linda Dorman is a World Vision journalist based in Bangkok, Thailand.

celebrate life!

Give the gift of hope and you'll hear music!

To commemorate World Vision's 50th anniversary, some of today's best Christian artists have created HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING, a CD filled with songs that will touch your heart. Now you can join the celebration. When you send a gift of \$25 or more, you will receive this wonderful CD with our thanks for your support of World Vision's ministry to children, their families, and their communities.



Let the music of Anointed, The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, 4Him, Larnelle Harris, Ron Kenoly, Don Moen, Newsong, Sandi Patty, and John Tesh bless you as you bless others. Your gift will help provide life's basic necessities such as food, clean water, shelter, education, and health care to boys and girls who desperately need to feel the love and compassion of people like you.



Every time you listen to this glorious music, you will know you are helping celebrate the lives of children everywhere and offering them the promise of hope for today and all eternity. Send the attached coupon or call today!

CALL 800.448.6437

Yes. I want to help children and families in need—and receive the CD HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Please use my gift of \$25 (or more \$_____) to alleviate suffering and offer hope to children. 1300

I prefer a CD (72) Cassettes (73)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____ () Phone _____

Please make your check payable to World Vision. The amount of your gift is tax deductible, minus the value of the CD/cassette. Mail this coupon to World Vision, 50th Anniversary CD Offer, P.O. Box 70050, Tacoma, WA 98481-0050.

Following God's call to serve "the least of these," World Vision has been offering help and hope to the world's poor and suffering since 1950. All artist proceeds from this CD are donated to World Vision to support efforts to change children's lives worldwide.

World Vision

34834 Weyerhaeuser Way South
 Federal Way, Washington 98001

www.worldvision.org





HOPE CHANGES EVERYTHING

World Vision

A WORLD VISION 50th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT CELEBRATION



SANDI PATTY



AVALON



NEWSONG



JONATHAN PIERCE



SPECIAL GUEST: THE RALPH CARMICHAEL BAND

NOT ALL ARTISTS PERFORMING AT EACH EVENT



TWILA PARIS



LARNELLE HARRIS



MARGARET BECKER



CHONDA PIERCE



RON KENOLY



GERON & BECKY DAVIS



CECE WINANS

September 15th • Pasadena, CA
September 23rd • Chicago, IL
September 30th • Seattle, WA

Tickets \$15

World Vision Sponsor Rate \$10

use code word "SPONSOR" when ordering tickets to receive discounted rate and a coupon for a FREE CD of Hope Changes Everything

For more information call: 1-800-965-9324 or purchase on-line at www.itickets.com



World Vision

Guest Essay | by Jim Wallis

On the Winning Side

How faith-based organizations are scoring victories against poverty and social problems.

ONE OF MY MOST ENDURING MEMORIES IS

a church service I attended at St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, South Africa, during the apartheid era. Nelson Mandela and many other political leaders were in prison. The government had canceled a political rally around the cathedral, so Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "Okay then, we're having church."

During the service, hundreds of riot police lined the sanctuary walls, intimidating the worshippers. Tutu stood up before the congregation and said that apartheid could not endure because it was evil. He pointed at the police. "You are powerful, but you are not gods. I serve a God who cannot be mocked." He smiled and said, "So, since you've already lost, I invite you today to come and join the winning side." Later, at Mandela's inauguration, I reminded Archbishop Tutu of that day and said, "Bishop, today they've all joined the winning side."

That's how history changes. First there's faith, and then there's hope. We saw it in 1964, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to personally influence President Johnson to establish a voting rights act for blacks. The master of politics from Texas said he couldn't do it. So Dr. King mobilized the religious community in Selma, Ala. In five months, we had a voting rights act.

Today, economics divides us more than race. The world's three richest families have more wealth than the 48 poorest countries. Everywhere, the gap between the rich and poor gets wider. But I believe that we are in the initial stages of a movement for economic justice, led in large part by people of faith. There's actually



Jim Wallis is Editor in Chief of Sojourners and convener of Call to Renewal. His latest book is *Faith Works*.

a new acronym being bandied about. FBOs: Faith-based organizations. FBOs are being discussed even at places like Harvard. Presidential candidates want to be our partners. All over the country, the media are talking about the success of FBOs.

Pick a topic, any topic. Youth violence. Welfare. Drug addiction. The need for housing, education, health care. FBOs are on the front lines, attacking problems that politicians have left unresolved. Why is it working? Because Christians have a deeper vision of change. We believe in spiritual transformation. It isn't about social action and it isn't about politics. It's about restoring the integrity of the Word of God in our lives, our congregations, our neighborhoods, and in this nation.

It's an election year, and the politicians have what I call the "wet-finger syndrome." They get it by licking a finger and putting it up in the air, trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing. Somehow we think that replacing one wet-fingered politician with another will change this country. It never has, and it never will. Leaders of great moral movements like Dr. King and Archbishop Tutu understood that to change a nation, you don't just replace politicians. You have to change the wind.

Around the country, I see signs of wind changers. In Boston, Rev. Eugene Rivers organized the Ten Point Coalition of 50 churches working with law enforcement to reduce youth violence—and earned credit from the police chief for doing just that. Bethel New Life Church has transformed Chicago's west side neighborhoods by building 1,000 housing units and creating 500 jobs. In Los Angeles, a group called CLUE—Clergy in Laity United for Economic Justice—scored living wages and benefits for low-income workers. These are not isolated ministries and projects, but part of an important movement.

The key to FBOs is that first word, "faith." Hebrews says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." I say hope is believing in spite of the evidence—and then watching the evidence change. People of faith will lead the way to economic justice. Someday, by God's grace, we'll look into the eyes of wealth, power, greed, and indifference and say, "You have already lost, so why don't you come and join the winning side?" ■

Giving more than food and water

"I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever be hungry again. Those who believe in me will never thirst."

John: 6:35

Life's essential elements for survival seem so simple: food, water, and shelter. Yet in many communities worldwide, children and their families suffer from a severe lack of such basic resources. Every day people die from diseases caused by unclean water, malnutrition, and exposure.

By participating in World Vision's Love Loaf program, your church families will be inspired to step out in faith to do what they can to make a difference in the lives of others. By dropping a few cents a day into the loaf, your families can change the futures of needy people.

Contact us today and find out how you can start bringing health and hope to children and their families—the impact will change your life too! Please call 1.877.4LOAVES or visit our website at www.loveloaf.org.

World Vision 

www.worldvision.org

making it
possible with
LOVE LOAF



18 QLS 1

Published by
World Vision Inc.
P.O. Box 0172
Tacoma, WA
98481-0172

If you have questions, comments,
or a change of address,
you may call toll-free:
(888) 85-CHILD (24453)

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
World Vision